

**Chambers of Magistrate Judge J. Andrew Smyser** *continued***Staff**

Career Law Clerk **Melissa Sayres** ..... (717) 221-3980  
 E-mail: melissa\_sayres@pamd.uscourts.gov  
 Education: Millersville 1989 BA;  
 Dickinson 1993 JD  
 Judicial Assistant **Carrie Lynn Thomas-Mayernick** ..... (717) 221-3980  
 Education: Shippensburg 1996 BA

**Chambers of Magistrate Judge Malachy E. Mannion**

Max Rosen U.S. Courthouse, 197 South Main Street, Suite 161,  
 Wilkes Barre, PA 18701  
 Tel: (570) 831-2570 Fax: (570) 821-4009

**Malachy E. Mannion**

Magistrate Judge

Date of Birth: 1953  
 Education: Scranton 1976 BS; Pace 1979 JD  
 Began Service: January 4, 2001  
 Term Expires: January 3, 2017

**Academic:** Lecturer, United States Department of Justice Attorney General's Advocacy Institute; Lecturer, Pennsylvania Bar Institute; Lecturer, Federal Bar Association

**Government:** Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Nassau, New York (1980-1986); Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of Pennsylvania, United States Department of Justice, Ronald Reagan Administration (1986-1993); Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of Pennsylvania, United States Department of Justice, William J. Clinton Administration (1997-2001)

**Legal Practice:** Partner, Hourigan, Kluger, Spohrer & Quinn, P.C. (1993-1997)

**Current Memberships:** Federal Bar Association; Lackawanna Bar Association; Pennsylvania Bar Association

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Jennifer Ramme** ..... (570) 831-2570  
 Career Law Clerk **Krista Ammenhauser** ..... (570) 831-2570  
 Began Service: 2001  
 E-mail: krista\_ammenhauser@pamd.uscourts.gov  
 Education: Scranton 1992; Widener 1996 JD  
 Courtroom Deputy **Barbe Sempa** ..... (570) 831-2570  
 E-mail: barbe\_sempa@pamd.uscourts.gov

**United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania**

274 Max Rosenn U.S. Courthouse, 197 South Main Street,  
 Wilkes Barre, PA 18701  
 Tel: (570) 831-2500 Fax: (570) 829-0249  
 Internet: www.pamb.uscourts.gov

**Number of Judgeships:** 2

**Court Staff**

Clerk of Court **Arlene Righter** ..... (717) 901-2816  
 P.O. Box 908, Harrisburg, PA 17108 Fax: (717) 901-2848  
 Chief Deputy Clerk **Ellen Linskey** ..... (570) 821-4068  
 Information Systems Manager **Don Lindemuth** ..... (717) 901-2831

**Chambers of Chief Bankruptcy Judge John J. Thomas**

Max Rosenn U.S. Courthouse, 197 South Main Street, Suite 150,  
 Wilkes Barre, PA 18701  
 Tel: (570) 831-2531 Fax: (570) 829-3602  
 E-mail: chambers\_of\_judge\_john\_thomas@pamb.uscourts.gov

**John J. Thomas**

Chief Bankruptcy Judge

Date of Birth: 1948  
 Education: Dickinson 1972 JD  
 Began Service: January 10, 1992  
 Term Expires: January 10, 2020

**Academic:** Adjunct Professor, The Pennsylvania State University (1987-1992)

**Government:** Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania (1974-1985); First Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania (1984-1985)

**Current Memberships:** Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association; National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges; Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association

**Staff**

Career Law Clerk **Richard P. Rogers** ..... (570) 831-2531  
 Education: Temple 1983 JD  
 Judicial Assistant **Catherine M. Sisk** ..... (570) 831-2531

**Chambers of Bankruptcy Judge Mary D. France**

P.O. Box 1263, Harrisburg, PA 17108  
 Tel: (717) 901-2845

**Mary D. France**

Bankruptcy Judge

Began Service: March 3, 2003

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Melanie Sonnenborn** ..... (717) 901-2845  
 Began Service: 2009  
 E-mail: melanie\_sonnenborn@pamb.uscourts.gov  
 Career Law Clerk **John D. Kelly** ..... (717) 901-2846  
 E-mail: john\_kelly@pamb.uscourts.gov

**Chambers of Bankruptcy Judge Robert N. Opel**

274 Max Rosenn U.S. Courthouse, 197 South Main Street,  
 Wilkes Barre, PA 18701  
 Tel: (570) 826-6318 Fax: (570) 821-4069

**Robert N. Opel**

Bankruptcy Judge

Began Service: September 2006  
 Term Expires: September 2020

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Kathryn Evans** ..... (570) 826-6591  
 Courtroom Deputy **Jane Tracy** ..... (570) 826-6666  
 Judicial Secretary **Beth Irving** ..... (570) 826-6318

**United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania**

U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
 Tel: (412) 208-7500 Tel: (412) 644-6374 (PACER)  
 Fax: (412) 208-7530  
 Internet: www.pawd.uscourts.gov

**Number of Judgeships:** 10

**Number of Vacancies:** 1

**Areas Covered:** Counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington and Westmoreland

**Court Staff**

Clerk of the Court **Robert V. Barth** ..... (412) 208-7500  
 E-mail: robert\_barth@pawd.uscourts.gov  
 Chief Deputy **Colleen Willison** ..... (412) 208-7518  
 Deputy-in-Charge - Erie **Susan Parmeter** ..... (814) 464-9600  
 P.O. Box 1820, Erie, PA 16507 Fax: (814) 464-9607  
 17 South Park Row, Erie, PA 16501  
 Deputy-in-Charge - Johnstown **James Graves** ..... (814) 533-4504  
 208 Penn Traffic Bldg., 319 Washington St., Fax: (814) 533-4519  
 Johnstown, PA 15901

**Chambers of Chief Judge Gary L. Lancaster**

700 Grant Street, Courtroom 3A, Suite 3250, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
 Tel: (412) 208-7400 Fax: (412) 208-7407

**Gary L. Lancaster**

Chief Judge

Date of Birth: 1949  
 Education: Slippery Rock U 1971 BS; Pittsburgh 1974 JD  
 Began Service: December 17, 1993  
 Appointed By: President William J. Clinton

**Government:** Regional Counsel, Human Relations Commission, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1974-1976); Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (1976-1978)

**Judicial:** Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (1987-1993)

**Legal Practice:** Sole Practitioner (1978-1979); Partner, Cooper & Lancaster (1979-1981); Brown & Smith (1981-1987)

**Current Memberships:** Allegheny County Bar Association; The American Inns of Court; Homer S. Brown Law Association; National Bar Association

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Michael L. Clements** ..... (412) 208-7402  
 Began Service: 2009  
 Law Clerk (Part-Time) **Padmaja Chivukula** ..... (412) 208-7400  
 E-mail: padmaja\_chivukula@pawd.uscourts.gov  
 Law Clerk **Michelle A. Mantine** ..... (412) 208-7400  
 Law Clerk (Part-Time) **Teresa Elliot Nixon** ..... (412) 208-7408  
 Education: Vanderbilt 1996 JD  
 Courtroom Deputy **Michael Palus** ..... (412) 208-7400  
 E-mail: michael\_palus@pawd.uscourts.gov  
 Court Reporter **Richard Ford** ..... (412) 261-0802  
 Judicial Assistant (**Vacant**) ..... (412) 208-7401

**Chambers of District Judge Donetta W. Ambrose**

U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Suite 3280,  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1906  
 Tel: (412) 208-7350 Fax: (412) 208-7357  
 E-mail: Judge\_Donetta\_Ambrose@pawd.uscourts.gov

**Donetta W. Ambrose**

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1945  
 Education: Duquesne 1967 BA, 1970 JD  
 Began Service: 1994  
 Appointed By: President William J. Clinton  
 Political Affiliation: Democrat

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk The Honorable Louis L. Manderino, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania (1970); Law Clerk The Honorable Louis L. Manderino, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1971-1972)

**Government:** Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1972-1974); Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania (1977-1981)

**Judicial:** Judge, Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas (1982-1993); Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (2009)

**Legal Practice:** Partner, Ambrose & Ambrose (1974-1981)

**Current Memberships:** Allegheny County Bar Association; American Bar Association; American Bar Foundation, American Bar Association; The American Inns of Court; American Judicature Society; National Association of Women Judges; Pennsylvania Bar Association; Commission on Women in the Profession, Pennsylvania Bar Association; Westmoreland Bar Association; Womens Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Leigh Ferron** ..... (412) 208-7350  
 Began Service: 2009  
 Term Expires: 2010  
 Law Clerk **Lisa Tumolo** ..... (412) 208-7350  
 Began Service: 2009  
 Term Expires: 2010  
 Career Law Clerk **Carolyn Allen** ..... (412) 208-7355  
 E-mail: Carolyn\_Allen@pawd.uscourts.gov  
 Education: Duquesne 1993 JD  
 Career Law Clerk **Sherry Halfhill** ..... (412) 208-7354  
 E-mail: Sherry\_Halfhill@pawd.uscourts.gov  
 Education: Temple 1993 JD  
 Career Law Clerk **Anne Salzman Kurzweg** ..... (412) 208-7353  
 E-mail: anne\_kurzweg@pawd.uscourts.gov  
 Education: Pittsburgh 1998 JD  
 Career Law Clerk **Susan Schupansky** ..... (412) 208-7353  
 E-mail: susan\_schupansky@pawd.uscourts.gov  
 Education: Pennsylvania 1998 JD  
 Courtroom Deputy Clerk **Jack Hamilton** ..... (412) 208-7350  
 Court Reporter **Michael Powers** ..... (412) 208-7572

**Chambers of District Judge Sean J. McLaughlin**

17 South Park Row, Room A 250, Erie, PA 16501  
 Tel: (814) 464-9610 Fax: (814) 464-9617

**Sean J. McLaughlin**

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1955  
 Education: Georgetown 1977 BA, 1980 JD  
 Began Service: October 13, 1994  
 Appointed By: President William J. Clinton

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk The Honorable William W. Knox, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (1980-1981)

**Legal Practice:** Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall & Sennett (1981-1994)

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